

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0535

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0836

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, PINR, YE, SA

SUBJ: YEMENI INTERNAL SITUATION

1. DURING FEBRUARY 27 CALL SAUDI MILITARY ATTACHE SALIH HUDAYYAN, WHO HAS IN EFFECT BEEN SAUDI AMBASSADOR IN SANA DURING ALMOST YEAR-LONG ABSENCE OF HIS CHIEF OF MISSION, EMPHASIZED TO ME SAUDI ARABIA'S CURRENT FULL SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI AND THE YEMENI GOVERNMENT. HUDAYYAN CHARACTERIZED AL-HAMDI AS INTELLIGENT, ACTIVE AND RELIABLE. HE SAID AL-HAMDI ONLY MAN NOW ON YEMENI POLITICAL SCENE WHO CAN EFFECTIVELY LEAD THE COUNTRY.

2. HUDAYYAN CONTINUED THAT SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAS TOLD DISCONTENTED YEMENIS LIKE SHEIKH ABDALLAH AL-AHMAR AND MUJAHID ABU SHUWARIB THAT SAUDI ARABIA FULLY SUPPORTS AL-HAMDI AND THAT ANY ACTION TAKEN AGAINST AL-HAMDI AND HIS GOVERNMENT WILL BE CONSIDERED AS ACTION AGAINST THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT AS WELL.

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3. HUDAYYAN STATED THAT DESPITE THIS FULL SUPPORT FOR AL-HAMDI, THE SAUDIS HAVE ALSO BEEN ADVISING AL-HAMID TO TRY TO FIND SOME WAY TO BRING AL-AHMAR BACK INTO THE FOLD. HUDAYYAN SAID THAT IT IS UP TO AL-HAMDI, OF COURSE, TO DECIDE HOW TO DO THIS BUT EVEN GESTURES WOULD BE SUEFUL. HUDAYYAN MENTIONED THAT HE HAD, FOR EXAMPLE, BEEN ADVISING AL-HAMDI

TO INCLUDE AL-AHMAR IN THE DELEGATION WHICH WILL ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT TO THE UP-COMING ARAB SUMMIT MEETING IN EARLY MARCH. (AL-HAMDI SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD ME THAT AL-AHMAR HAS INFACCT BEEN INVOTED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION.)

4. HUDAYYAN WENT ON THAT THE LEFTISTS IN YEMEN ARE STILL TRYING TO FIND WAYS TO UNDERMINE AL-HAMDI AND THE REGIME. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AS ONE PLACE WHERE THE LEFTISTS INFLUENCE IS STIL ACTIVE. (I SUBSEQUENTLY DISCUSSED SAME MATTER WITH AL-HAMDI WHO ADMITTED THAT THE MINISTER IS "SICK" AND STATED THAT A "CURE" WILL HAVE TO BE APPLIED.)

5. COMMENT: HUDAYYAN IS AN ASTUTE OBSERVER OF YEMEN SCENE AND IS WITHOUT DOUBT THE MOST IMPORTANT SOURCE FOR THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT OF INFORMATION CONCERNING DEVELOPMENTS HERE. HIS COMMENTS ABOUT AL-HAMDI ONLY CONFIRM WHAT WE HAVE HEARD FROM THE VARIOUS SOURCES OF THE GOOD STATEOF YEMENI/SAUDI RELATIONS. THIS WAS ALSO REINFORCED BY PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI HIMSELF DURING MY CALL ON HIM LATER THE SAME MORNING.
SCOTES

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